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22 October 1969

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: ARGO Steering Committee, October 1, 1969, Room 208 FOB

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1. [ ] opened the meeting with the announcement that he was moving from Office Science & Technology/White House Staff to the CIA (while he did not describe the new position I understand since the meeting that it will be as Deputy to [ ]). He announced that [ ] from IDA is his replacement. He also called attention to the absence of [ ] (NASA) and referred to [ ] new corporation EARTHUSAT. I noticed that Rowland Inlow was not present while Otto Guthrie was.

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2. The briefings on the agenda were as follows:

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a. [ ] replacement from NASA reported on the APOLLO Underflight Program. (Ref: 90-page report by [ ]) This series of air flights are providing a sequential coverage mostly of the agricultural growing season in the Southwest. Fifteen agricultural sites are covered including the Imperial Valley and the Southern Arizona farm region; also other areas such as North California farm region and Oregon fishing region at the mouth of the Colombia River. The project is encompassing various fields in geology, conservation, etc. The project is slow but eventually hopes to cover all the various disciplines. It hopefully will contribute a perspective to review the APOLLO role in all earth resources.

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b. The Dept. of Transportation representative briefed on and spoke of requesting satellite and SR 71 coverage. They had hoped with the SR 71 to get SIAR sensing which he stated is best for ice reconnaissance. They did receive some limited data from satellites but it was principally cloud covered. Satellite coverage, except tests, is too expensive. The SR 71 coverage was too risky due to the necessity to rendezvous with tanker planes. NRO is working with The Department of Transportation representative regarding possible U2 or RD co-operation. The Department of Transportation will use Autometrics for some selected readout on the recent US Manhattan Journey. Some sensings were made from available aircraft and the take was dropped on the same air mission to the Manhattan where it was read out and used for immediate command control purposes.

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c. [ ] of CIA briefed on his project covering analyses at [ ] of photography both foreign and domestic taken by sensitive satellites. He announced that project would terminate this year unless the "Peaceful Uses" Agencies see fit to fund it. He commented that they were looking at SO 180 color and black and white ----- SO 180 was good for agricultural assessment - while black and white was alright for disaster although this could also be obtained from color. Then followed some discussion of recent non-military information of importance to the national security obtained from sensitive photography (example given by [ ] concerning impact of wheat-yield having serious effect on the world wide wheat prices. Other agricultural examples were given by Parks on India and Turkey.

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d. [ ] briefed on an OEP study of Camille within OEP. A copy of this report and it's attachments have been provided the Director, NPIC since the meeting. The study included some use of excellent [ ] photography over Biloxi. KH-4 photography of December 1964 provided the data base for damage assessment. The study is available for review for those interested. It will be used by OEP to learn needs for specific advance planning for disasters. (As an example the availability of roads, bridges and airports is critical for communications purposes.) It was also pointed out that in the event of a disaster all agencies undertook to cover the disaster with their own equipment or by request obtain assistance from others. There was some discussion of the need to co-ordinate coverage in a disaster.

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3. [ ] spoke of the tentative Agenda for the next ARGO Meeting to be held on November 25th. He proposed that ESSA provide a report on the snow coverage photography of last Spring; USGS discuss the engineering survey for the Alaskan Pipe Line; and NPIC provide the briefing on the new color film which will be flown before the next meeting (compare resolution to black and white and cover color sensitivity). This will be arranged by [ ] who accompaned me to the meeting, [ ]. The Corps of Engineers suggested that they provide a briefing on their interest in high altitude photography.

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